

## Appendix 11.A McKinney-Vento Law and Guidance Related to Collaboration

### McKinney-Vento Act Excerpts

#### *Local and State Coordination*

Local educational agency liaisons for homeless children and youths shall, as a part of their duties, coordinate and collaborate with State Coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths [42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(6)(C)].

#### *Coordination*

**(A) IN GENERAL** - Each local educational agency serving homeless children and youths ...shall coordinate—

- (i) the provision of services under this part with local social services agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless children and youths and their families, including services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. § 5701 et seq.); and
- (ii) with other local educational agencies on interdistrict issues, such as transportation or transfer of school records.

**(B) HOUSING ASSISTANCE** - If applicable, each State educational agency and local educational agency that receives assistance under this part shall coordinate with State and local housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing affordability strategy described in section 12705 of this title to minimize educational disruption for children and youths who become homeless.

**(C) COORDINATION PURPOSE** - The coordination required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be designed to—

- (i) ensure that homeless children and youths have access and reasonable proximity to available education and related support services; and
- (ii) raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(5)].

## McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance Excerpts

### **F-2. What are the responsibilities of the local liaison for homeless children and youth?**

The local liaison serves as one of the primary contacts between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers, and other service providers. The liaison coordinates services to ensure that homeless children and youth enroll in school and have the opportunity to succeed academically.

Local liaisons must ensure that:

- Homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies...
- Homeless children and youth and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start, Even Start, and preschool programs administered by the LEA, and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services...

In meeting these responsibilities, local liaisons must assist homeless children and youth with such activities as the following...

- Working with school staff to make sure that homeless children and youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that might arise over school enrollment or placement;
- Helping to coordinate transportation services for homeless children and youth; and
- Collaborating and coordinating with State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and community and school personnel responsible for providing education and related support services to homeless children and youth (ED, 2004).

### **I-2. What are an LEA's responsibilities regarding coordination of services for homeless children and youth?**

LEAs are responsible for coordinating with local social service agencies and other service providers and programs, including programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. § 5701 et seq.), and with other LEAs on issues such as transportation and the transfer of records. Additionally, they must coordinate with housing assistance providers...The purpose of this coordination is to ensure that eligible students have access

and reasonable proximity to available education and related support services. It is also important to coordinate efforts in order to raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of homelessness and the challenges that homeless students face (ED, 2004).

**G-10. Are children who are awaiting foster care placement eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act?**

Yes...LEA liaisons should confer and coordinate with local public social service agency providers in determining how best to assist homeless children and youth who are awaiting foster care placement (ED, 2004).